IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at p. 16, line 1, with the following:

Figure 3 is an illustration of a top-level window 80 with several child windows contained therein. These child windows may typically be controlled by, i.e., created by, the application thread that created the parent top-level window or be controlled by another thread that acts in concert with the thread controlling the top-level window. The top level window 80 has a left system button 82 for opening a drop down menu to select familiar options such as "move," "close," etc. The top-level window also has a title bar 84 and system buttons. The system buttons are represented by familiar standard shapes illustrated by the "minimize" button 86, "restore" button 88, and the "close" button 90. The child windows contained in the client area of the top-level window 80 include other windows 92 and a dialog box 94 having an "OK" button 96 to illustrate the variety of graphical symbols that may be present. Some of the child window elements contain the familiar system buttons.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at p. 24, line 1, with the following:

Figure 9 illustrates the operation of the close command in an embodiment of the invention. The ghost window receives a close command at step 190. The ghost thread responsively initiates a forced closure of the hung application at step 192. Such a forced termination may be carried out, for instance, by invoking the taskman.exe in the "WINDOWS®" OS environment manufactured by the "MICROSOFT®" Corporation of Redmond, Washington. Since there is no need for forwarding entries to the hung application, the cached entries are discarded (step 194) and the ghost window is destroyed (step 198 196). The resources used by the application are released (step 198). If there are no other ghost windows being managed by this ghost thread (step 200) then the ghost thread exits (step 202).